

CLAIMS

1. An apoptosis-inducing agent, comprising a substance that induces endoplasmic reticulum stress.

2. The inducing agent according to claim 1, wherein the substance that induces endoplasmic reticulum stress is at least one selected from the group consisting of tunicamycin, thapsigargin, and brefeldin A.

3. The inducing agent according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising siRNA against the gene that codes for Synoviolin.

4. A therapeutic agent for autoimmune diseases, comprising a substance that induces endoplasmic reticulum stress.

5. The therapeutic agent according to claim 4, wherein the substance that induces endoplasmic reticulum stress is at least one selected from the group consisting of tunicamycin, thapsigargin, and brefeldin A.

6. The therapeutic agent according to claim 4, wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

7. The therapeutic agent according to any of claims 4 to 6, further comprising siRNA against the gene that codes for Synoviolin.

8. A method for inhibiting the proliferation of cells, wherein the cells are treated with an inducing agent according to any of claims 1 to 3.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the cells are synoviocytes.